

Discussion at Advisory Council Meeting Held on 3/20/14
Regarding Network Wired Switch Vendors

Requests to the Standards Committee to add another Network Wired Switch vendor (Jill)

- Standards Committee has been receiving inquiries regarding Meraki Wired Switch gear. Meraki was recently purchased by Cisco which is one of the approved switch gear vendors. Jill reviewed the WNYRIC Standards list criteria for adds, removals, and change. Any new switches needs to provide a technology niche that already approved vendor products do not. These switches would be difficult for the Senior Network Engineers to support in an enterprise level through online tools, which could potentially increase costs for districts for WAN support due to total cost of ownership expenses. Avaya and Cisco offer aidable, viable and robust technology at a contained cost. Some members feel a pilot of Meraki should be conducted with results reported back after a pilot is completed. Jill is meeting with Cisco on Thursday, March 27, 2014 to see if the Meraki Cloud software will be implemented in Cisco gear and when and if they can be supported utilizing enterprise management tools. A proof of concept in a district where WNYRIC VoIP service exists would need to be included as switches approved by Standards Committee need to support all services running across the WAN. Any proof of concept would need to cover vendor products in that niche and an eventual RFP would need to be done which would include maintenance costs and WNYRIC support thus complying with the CoSer.

There was an additional question about stand-alone VoIP switches and the possibility of aid on the maintenance of these switches purchased by districts. These switches are in the network at the districts but are not supported by the WNYRIC and are not part of the enterprise VoIP system which was awarded through an RFP/Bid process several years ago. Stand-alone systems, without the shared concept are not eligible for aid.